

LETTER TO FRANK O'HARA

How do the flaming ships
reveal themselves
when two and a half
men come up the street
and only one returns
(inside the painting)?

Frank, you might answer that
now that yr dead ...
I have rejected your type
of thought
but not the style
and dreams were painted wide
inside my shoes once
so I walked them sideways
never wanting to disturb anyone
except Derain
and the surrealists had failed me.
I'll say that, Frank.
The road inside the clock was wrong for me
and I put my painted shoes up
washing out the dreams like socks
till they faded
though I still hear the ticking
and the ties
yes I still hear the ticking.

POST CARD TO MYSELF FROM LONDON

In the morning on the bus
my nose is always running.
And I never have a tissue.
The agony of London
colds as it runs down
into my moustache.
Can I brush it with my sleeve?
Can I wipe it with The Times?
God, not with the TLS.

Quick with the thumb
then into my pocket.
And I am supposed
to be an authority
on Taoism!